



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region



Linda S. Adams.

Secretary for

Environmental Protection

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Arnold Schwarzenegger

Governor

August 28, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

Notice of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting for the Development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Bradley Canyon Creek, Bradley Channel, Blosser Channel, Main Street Canal, Santa Maria River and Estuary, Orcutt (Solomon) Creek, Oso Flaco Creek, Little Oso Flaco Creek, and Oso Flaco Lake for the discharge of Nutrients (specific nutrients and their effects)

Notice of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting for the Development of TMDLs for Alamo Creek, Cuyama River, Nipomo Creek, Santa Maria River and Estuary, Blosser Channel, Main Street Canal, Bradley Channel, Bradley Canyon Creek, Orcutt-Solomon Creek, Oso Flaco Creek, Little Oso Flaco Creek, and Oso Flaco Lake for the discharge of Total and Fecal Coliform

Notice of a Public Workshop for the TMDL Projects named above, and the TMDL for Santa Maria River and Estuary, Orcutt (Solomon) Creek, and Oso Flaco Lake for Pesticides (specific pesticides and their effects)

Time and Location:

Date: October 16, 2008

Time: 8:00-11:30 a.m.

Address: Central Coast Water Board, 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906. The facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Katie McNeill at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

PURPOSE

Central Coast Water Board staff (Water Board staff) will hold an outreach, CEQA scoping meeting and public workshop to discuss the development of TMDLs and Implementation Plans for the control of discharges of total and fecal coliform and nutrients to the waters referenced above. Water Board staff will also kick-off the

California Environmental Protection Agency



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Pesticides TMDL project to discuss the early stages of TMDL development for the waters referenced above.

The impairments are due to elevated total and fecal coliform, nutrients (for specific pollutants such as nitrate, unionized ammonia, and biostimulatory substances; and their effects) and pesticides (for specific pollutants such as Chlorpyrifos, DDT, Dieldrin, and Endrin, and their effects)

The TMDLs will allocate pollutant loading capacities and establish an implementation plan to control discharges of these pollutants so that that receiving waters attain applicable water quality standards, including: recreation beneficial uses, aquatic life related beneficial uses, shellfish harvesting beneficial use, and municipal and domestic water supply beneficial use.

These waters were listed or are proposed to be listed as impaired on the State's "List of Water Quality Limited Segments" pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 303(d). The Clean Water Act requires the State to develop TMDLs for waters on the list. State law requires development of implementation plans to achieve the TMDLs. Staff has conducted investigations on the nature and causes of impairments, the legal standards that must be met in these waters, and strategies to reduce the amount of pollutants discharged to these waters in order to achieve the associated water quality standards. The Projects include proposals to add TMDLs and associated implementation plans to control discharges. Water Board staff will propose the total and fecal coliform and nutrient TMDLs for Water Board adoption at a public meeting in 2009. The TMDLs or implementation plans may require the installation of pollution control equipment or establish a performance standard or treatment requirement. Water Board staff is in the early stages of TMDL development for the waters impaired by pesticides.

CEQA SCOPING MEETING AND PUBLIC WORKSHOP CONDUCT AND SCHEDULE

This meeting and workshop will provide participants with: 1) an explanation and understanding of the total and fecal coliform and nutrient TMDL projects under development, 2) an opportunity to comment on the Projects, and 3) an opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and content of the environmental analysis and environmental documentation for these projects to be prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and the Water Board's certified regulatory program for basin planning (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15251, subdivision (g); and Title 23, Section 3775 et seq).

At previous CEQA meetings for this project area, stakeholders identified Project alternatives including the following:

1. No Action (No TMDL)
2. Delay TMDL
3. TMDL with different targets
4. Alternative waste load and load allocations:

- a. Other wasteload and load allocations (one responsible party)
 - b. Relative load allocations (load-based contributions)
 - c. Equal load allocations (same load assigned to each responsible party)
 - d. Allocations as equal concentrations
 - e. Allocations geographically (by subwatershed)
 - f. Allocations based on feasibility
 - g. Allocations using water quality trading
5. Proposed Project (TMDL)

Water Board staff identified examples of foreseeable methods of compliance to reduce pollutant discharges and in-stream pollutant concentrations. These are as follows:

- Fertilizer use and storage
- Irrigation and nutrient management
- Manure management
- Grazing management
- Septic system maintenance
- Public education and outreach

Interested persons are specifically requested to provide information about:

- How they or responsible parties would foreseeably comply with the TMDL;
- The reasonably foreseeable significant environmental impacts associated with those means of compliance;
- Specific evidence supporting that such impacts are reasonably foreseeable, and describing the magnitude (how significant) of the impacts;
- Reasonable alternative means of compliance that would have less significant adverse environmental impacts;
- Reasonable mitigation measures that would minimize any unavoidable significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the means of compliance.

Water Board staff will consider issues raised and comments provided, both on the appropriate scope and content of the environmental documentation and on the Projects, in the final reports that will be presented to the Water Board.

Draft Project Reports, or summaries, for total and fecal coliform, and nutrients will be made available at the Water Board website at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/> by September 16, 2008. The reports are also available by request at the office of the Central Coast Water Board.

Water Board Staff will accept verbal comments at the Public Workshop and written comments received by October 24, 2008. Water Board Staff will not prepare written responses to each individual comment received at this meeting, but will incorporate written responses to all significant environmental points in the final reports that will be provided to the Water Board at the hearing anticipated in 2009.




CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding CEQA Scoping or the Projects should be directed to Katie McNeill (805) 549-3336 or kmcneill@waterboards.ca.gov. Please mail written comments to Katie McNeill at 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906.

Sincerely,



 Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer

cc: Interested Parties electronic list for Santa Maria and Oso Flaco TMDL projects

File: Cuyama, Santa Maria and Oso Flaco watersheds TMDLs



Agenda

Public Workshop for the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Total and Fecal Coliform, Nutrients, and Pesticides

and

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting For Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Total and Fecal Coliform and Nutrients

Date: October 16th, 2008

Time: 8:00 PM – 11:30 a.m.

Public Workshop

8:00-8:30 a.m. - Introductions (Katie McNeill)

1) Purpose / Structure of Meeting and Comments

- a) Goals
- b) Staff Response to Comments
- c) Methods of Recording Comments

8:30-10:00 TMDL Project Updates (Summary, Comments and Questions, Next Steps)

- a) Nutrient Project
- b) Total and Fecal Coliform TMDL Project
- c) Pesticides TMDL Project

CEQA Scoping Meeting

10:00-11:00 CEQA Scoping for Nutrient and Total and Fecal Coliform TMDL Projects

- a) Explanation of Water Board's CEQA Process
- b) CEQA Scoping
 - 1. Identify Allocation Alternatives
 - 2. Identify Implementation and Compliance Alternatives
 - 3. Identify Environmental Impacts of Implementation and Compliance Alternatives
 - 4. Identify Cumulative Impacts
- c) CEQA Comments and Questions

11:00 pm-11:30 pm - Conclusion / Next Steps

